

Dear Committee

Every single day we as a country have been responsible for the plight of hundreds and hundreds of greyhounds enduring the cruelty of racing in overseas countries some of which are banned because exporters have taken advantage of loopholes in the legislation. We have a responsibility to stop this cruelty as a nation. Turning a 'blind eye' and convincing ourselves that the supply chains have protected these innocent dogs will not make the problem go away. These dogs have suffered and will continue to suffer if we are complacent and do nothing to end their suffering in these overseas countries where they are literally 'running for their lives'.

Currently there are loopholes in the legislation that allows innocent greyhounds to still end up in countries of concern like Vietnam and China where animal welfare standards are almost non-existent. We have a responsibility to close these loopholes completely that have been used by this industry to get around the legislation to use greyhounds in these countries. Greyhounds Australasia (GA) operates a 'greyhound passport' scheme for export of greyhounds and will not grant passports to greyhounds travelling to countries of concern. This has failed. Recent reports show greyhounds are still being exported overseas without Greyhounds Australasia's approval, making a mockery of the so-called enforcement system. Department of Agriculture past statistics show us that many dogs have been exported to these 'countries of concern.' The cruelty of this industry has flourished because our greyhounds still end up in China, Macau and Vietnam. Greyhounds have been exported to approved countries but can then be rerouted to countries of concern such as China, even though commercial exports to China have been banned for some years.

Greyhound Racing Victoria and other state authorities are reportedly currently investigating greyhounds being flown into the UK before being rerouted to China. This is unacceptable. Clearly any measures to protect our exported greyhounds have failed. In previous years, similar investigations took place into greyhound export to the United States and ending up in China. Whatever national legislation the Australian government tries to implement to prevent greyhound exports via third countries that are banned, the system will continue to be abused by exporters who will find other ways to move these greyhounds illegally to China and Vietnam. Once greyhounds have left Australia, there's very little the Australian government can do to protect their welfare. *Only a full commercial ban will overcome these relevant concerns, along with strict processes for those exporting domestic pet greyhounds.*

There has been an abuse of a system by exporters with no accountability and minimal punishment and the collateral damage is the miserable cruel lives these dogs have endured with a short life span, shot at the end when they have reached their use- by- date. Clearly this system has failed to protect commercially exported greyhounds. The winners are the exporters who make money off the backs of greyhound suffering.

Hence, I absolutely support the Bill. A complete ban on any and all commercial greyhound export is long overdue.

This is a simple reform and an important one. It will put a stop to a completely inhumane practice that has caused far too much suffering for far too many greyhounds. I encourage all politicians to support this important step for animal welfare. Protect our greyhounds pass this Bill to end forever the export of greyhounds for racing, breeding and commercial purposes.

Support the Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition Bill 2021.

This is the only effective way to end the industry and end the suffering of all our exported greyhounds.

Yours sincerely

Martin Derby